

## QVNA Board Retreat Meeting Minutes

August 4, 2012

Board Members Present: Jeff Hornstein, Amy Shelanski, Bill Landy, Cindy Elliott, Brent Chavis, Michael Hauptman, Kim Maialetti, Rich Miller, Honey Pertnoy, Carla Puppini (Executive Director)

Board Members Not Present: Kathy Dilonardo, Leslie Patterson-Tyler

### 1. Meeting Purpose

To review the goals set by each committee at the January Board Retreat and to update goals and budgets for the remainder of 2012.

### 2. Committee Reports

- a. Dogs. Honey Pertnoy reported that the Dogs Committee met its goals of establishing the committee, as well as establishing an independent group to oversee the Mario Lanza dog park (QVK9), co-chaired by Sean Melody and Elizabeth May. QVNA has a restricted fund for QVK9. Old Swedes church has agreed to fence in its child day care area and advised that dogs will be welcomed in all other areas of the property. The committee communicates with interested neighbors via its website, Facebook and on-site signs.
- b. Schools and Youth. A group is raising funds to bring Chinese language classes starting in the sixth grade to four area schools: Meredith, Greenfield, Nebinger and McCall. Powell school has already begun the program. QVNA Schools and Youth will have a fund-raiser on October 16<sup>th</sup> at Bridget Foy's to benefit Nebinger and Meredith schools.
- c. Community Building and Public Relations. Rich Miller suggested the use of Shot Tower to stage some Queen Village adult sports events, such as kickball and Frisbee, but noted that he has a hard time reaching anyone to make arrangements. Kim Maialetti would like the Board to hire someone to develop a comprehensive PR plan and believes QVNA needs a dedicated communications person, perhaps a paid position. Bill Landy suggested that QVNA reach out to area schools with communications programs, such as Drexel, Penn, Temple and

UArts, to locate an intern or volunteer for this position. It was also suggested that the person would be paid a minimal amount but perhaps receive school credit or use the position for a thesis. Rich noted that the “Taste of Queen Village” will be redesigned as an evening social event with a few area restaurants, since South Street will be doing a “Taste of South Street” program. The “Taste of Queen Village” program may be something like the Head House Conservancy up-scale fundraiser that is held every fall.

Rich suggested QVNA consider installing 911 phones in the neighborhood like there are on college campuses. Jeff thinks it’s a city issue, but we need someone to pursue options.

Jeff proposed an email newsletter to supplement information in The Crier. Jeff, Amy and Carla will prepare the first one next week to address AVI and voter registration/ID issues. Carla noted we can use the website to send emails to targeted lists of people. Kim asked who has final say on content that gets published under the QVNA name. Jeff noted that most materials go out under his or Carla’s review.

Bill Landy suggested that QVNA look into having a QV App created for smartphones.

- d. Sustainability. Andrew Levitt is spearheading the abandoned bike removal effort. 30-day notice tags will be distributed at general meetings, so neighbors can tag abandoned bikes for removal. Head House is installing bike corrals.
  
- e. Zoning. Michael Hauptman reported that properties that don’t comply with zoning regulations are currently required to appear before the Committee. The City has instituted changes so that this will no longer be required, unless a new project makes old noncompliance issues worse. has not seen anything dramatic recently, but that the frequency of presentations has increased, indicating an increase in activity in the neighborhood. The Board discussed the suggestion that the results of each Zoning Committee meeting be published in The Crier. Upcoming issues are published on the QVNA website, usually two weeks before the meeting. Michael asked for a budget of \$250 for nameplates and related materials.

### **3. New Business.**

- a. Parking Lot. Carla is talking with Parkway Corporation about managing the second lot. QVNA needs to apply for a lease from property owner; approval is likely. There have been some complaints about security and beautification; lot manager may be willing to assume responsibility for these items. QVNA had a grant that covered the lease for two years. We are talking with South Street Headhouse District about dedicating forty or so spaces to a valet program, which would serve area businesses. All economics of the proposed second lot should be available for the September meeting.
- b. AVI Update. QVNA hosted a meeting of a dozen civic leaders with the Office of Property Management (“OPA”). Attendees at this meeting were confident that the technical assessment of property values will be handled expertly. Citizens will receive an October bill that will be calculated at the existing rate; the reassessed rate will be provided in February, with the reassessed tax to be provided several months later. There are still policy issues to be addressed, such as deferrals, homestead exemptions and the tax rate to be applied. Brent Chavis noted that renters have no standing to appeal an assessment, although owner’s of rental units are expected to pass any tax increase on to the renters. Jeff noted that there may be a way to build renter standing into the regulations. OPA has people willing to talk with communities and Jeff proposes inviting a spokesperson to the October general meeting. Carla will check on having this meeting at Settlement to accommodate more attendees.
- c. Review of by-laws. Amy Shelanski will circulate a mark-up of the existing by-laws for Board review and comment.
- d. Template response to neighbor complaints
- e. Board Appointments. There are four open Board seats. A new vice president appointment needs to be made following Ted Warren’s resignation. Four At-Large Board seats will be up for election this winter, those currently held by Kathy Dilonardo, Leslie Patterson-Tyler, Mike Hauptman, and a vacant seat.

#### 4. Budget Matters

- a. Membership Drive. The Board discussed having a membership drive to raise funds. It was proposed that a flyer be created noting the benefits of membership (possibly including discounts at area businesses and access to a medical insurance and/or prescription drug plan). The flyer would

explain the loss of state funding and describe what QVNA has done and is doing for the community, such as monitoring events of interest and providing information.

- b. Grant Opportunities. Kim asked how we find out about grant opportunities. It was noted that Wal-Mart, Target, Comcast, Bank of America, PNC, Lowes and Home Depot have programs that QVNA should look into.
- c. Use of Surplus Funds. Jeff proposed that QVNA draw down \$5000 – \$7000 per year from the \$95,000 surplus funds over the next 4–5 years to achieve a surplus fund of \$50,000 – \$75,000 to cover operating expenses for unusual expenditures.
- d. Pending Expenditure Request. The pending requests for funds include: \$5000 for the Fulton Street Mural project, \$5000 to the Dogs Committee for the dog refuse receptacle project, and \$1700 to hire a project manager to oversee the placement of a commemorative plaque as part of the Weccacoe Playground renovation (background materials for this project were circulated via email). It was moved that the Dog Committee be allotted \$5,000 for the refuse cans and that \$1,700 be reserved for the Weccacoe/Bethel Burying Ground consultant. There was disagreement about reserving the \$1700, with Kim Maialetti objecting that background information had not yet been provided. It was also moved that \$10,000 be appropriated to the Grants Committee with the recommendation that no more than \$5,000 go to the Mural Project and up to \$5,000 could be used for other worthy projects, with a preference for Education. Mike Hauptman seconded the motion and the Board approved by voice vote.

## 5. Interim Activity

- a. Leziz Turkish Restaurant Liquor License. The Board approved joining the South Street/Headhouse District in supporting Leziz's application for a liquor license. Jeff suggested that the Board consider establishing a protocol similar to the one used for zoning variances, where QVNA follows SSHD's lead in commercial matters. The Board approved supporting Leziz's application by email vote.
- b. Fiscal Sponsorship of Chinese Language Program. By email of 8/23, Jeff advised that the group leading the effort to bring a Chinese Language Program to local schools would not be asking for a grant from QVNA, but is asking that QVNA serve as fiscal sponsor of the group's effort to raise

\$20,000 from private sources to launch the pilot program. The board approved this request by email vote.

- c. Committee Appointment. Kim Maialetti will resign from co-chairmanship of the Public Relations and Events committee and will now chair the Public Safety Committee, pending Board approval.
- d. Logo. Jeff noted that QVNA should adopt a new logo in connection with the planned membership drive. Board members provided names of people who might design the new logo and it was ultimately decided that QVNA should publish a Request for Proposals before selecting a designer.
- e. Registered Community Organization. Following Carla's and Jeff's application, the Philadelphia City Planning Commission approved QVNA's application to become a local Registered Community Organization. PCPC has added a link to RCOs at <http://www.phila.gov/cityplanning>.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cindy Elliott  
Recording Secretary